

made to assess the minimal daily requirements of the vitamin for healthy males of 20-30 years of age. This was estimated at 1,300 International Units daily given as pre-formed vitamin A and the recommended daily intake estimated at 2,500 I.U. For carotene, the corresponding estimates were 1,500 and 3,000 I.U., assuming complete availability of the carotene. However, the actual availability of carotene in vegetables varies and is far from complete.

The figures for supplying the recommended daily amount of vitamin A as carotene in certain foodstuffs are given as the following :—

Carrots, boiled, sliced, or purée	-	-	-	-	12,000	International Units daily.
Carrots, homogenized	-	-	-	-	5,500	„ „ „
Cabbage, spinach	-	-	-	-	7,500	„ „ „
B-Carotene in fat	-	-	-	-	4,000	„ „ „

This investigation serves as a model of patient, laborious investigation, and of sustained enthusiasm on the part of both investigators and of human "guinea pigs." It is a partial answer to those who criticize vitamin depletion experiments on the ground that they are usually made on animals rather than on human beings.

# AN ACCOUNT OF THE SCHOOLS OF SURGERY, ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, DUBLIN, 1789-1948. By J. D. H. Widdess, M.A.(Dublin), L.R.C.P. & S.I. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. Pp. 108. Price 17s. 6d.

This volume is one that will be found of interest by many in addition to those that have passed through the schools. Dr. Widdess, who is librarian in the College, has collected material hitherto unpublished and much now for the first time gathered together. As the President of the College points out in his foreword, "in the College, its collections, and its 'characters' there is material at hand and to spare."

At the outset the condition of surgical practice in Ireland, prior to the foundation of the College, is described, and the important part played in the foundation by Sylvester O'Halloran, a Limerick surgeon, is noted. The beneficial effect of the College on the status of Irish surgeons is emphasized. Fifty years before the Medical Act of 1858 amalgamated the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery the College of Surgeons provided an all-round curriculum.

Many of the great names of Irish medicine figure on the rolls of the College either as students or teachers. Colles, Cheyne, Jacob, and Stokes are among the outstanding clinicians of whom an account is given. Entertaining features of the book are extracts from the writings of "Erinensis," a contemporary of many of the famous, and a description of the activities of the Resurrectionists. For a time the export of anatomical subjects to medical schools in England and Scotland was for them a profitable trade.

The production of the attractive book is evidence of the continued vitality of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The numerous illustrations and well-compiled index add to the reader's pleasure and make the book one to keep and easy to make use of as a book of reference. J. A. C.

# AIDS TO GYNÆCOLOGY. By W. R. Winterton, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G. Tenth Edition. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. Pp. 184. Price 5s.

This little book has been revised and a chapter added on gynaecological endocrinology. Much information is condensed in easily readable form, and the book maintains its place in the now famous aids series.

Unfortunately, in a work of this type, many important subjects are passed over quickly; for example, stress incontinence, a condition which warrants much consideration, is dismissed summarily. Nevertheless, students who like their information in a short and predigested form will appreciate the book. R. A. E. M.